

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claim 4;

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 9 ; and

Please add new Claims 13 and 14, as follows

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In a floor vinyl repair method, the improvement which comprises placing a spacing apparatus between a vinyl patch and a damaged vinyl section prior to cutting through the vinyl patch and through the damaged vinyl section, wherein the spacing apparatus has a bottom surface, and a top surface with a central region and outer perimeter edges, regions and wherein the top surface is generally convex all the way from said central region to said outer perimeter edges ~~spacing apparatus central region is thicker than the edge regions.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A method for repairing floor vinyl, comprising:
placing a spacer between a vinyl patch and a damaged vinyl section, the spacer having a bottom surface and a top surface with a central region and outer perimeter edges, wherein the top surface is generally convex all the way from said central region to said outer perimeter edges, and wherein said placing is performed so that
said vinyl patch rests on said generally convex top surface to be ~~be~~ [[is]] elevated slightly above said damaged vinyl section;
cutting both said vinyl patch and said damaged vinyl section, whereby the slight elevation of said vinyl patch allows for a slight increase in a perimeter of said vinyl patch to offset contraction of said vinyl patch after cutting; and
replacing said damaged vinyl section with said cut vinyl patch.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for repairing floor vinyl, comprising:
placing a spacer between a vinyl patch and a damaged vinyl section so that
said vinyl patch is elevated slightly above said damaged vinyl section;
cutting both said vinyl patch and said damaged vinyl section, whereby the slight
elevation of said vinyl patch allows for a slight increase in a perimeter of said
vinyl patch to offset contraction of said vinyl patch after cutting; and
replacing said damaged vinyl section with said cut vinyl patch; and
The method of Claim 2, wherein the spacer is shaped like a domed-disc.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3_[[2]], wherein a plurality of said spacers are stacked between the vinyl patch and the damaged vinyl section to increase the elevation of the vinyl patch above said damaged vinyl section.
6. (Currently Amended) A method for repairing floor covering comprising:
placing a domed-disc spacing apparatus between a floor covering patch and a damaged floor covering section so that said floor covering patch is elevated slightly above said damaged floor covering section prior to cutting both said patch and said damaged section;
cutting both said patch and said damaged section, whereby the slight elevation of said patch allows for a slight increase in a perimeter of said patch to offset retraction of edges of said patch after cutting; and
replacing said damaged vinyl section with said cut patch.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the domed-disc has edges forming a square shape.
8. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein a plurality of said domed-disc spacing apparatus are stacked in between the patch and the damaged section.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for repairing floor covering, comprising:
placing a spacing apparatus between a floor covering patch and a damaged floor covering section so that the patch is elevated slightly above the damaged section, wherein the spacing apparatus comprising a protrusion on a bottom side of the spacing apparatus;
[[for]] sticking said protrusion into the damaged floor covering section to temporarily secure the spacing apparatus to the damaged floor covering section; cutting both the patch and [[that]] the damaged section, whereby the slight elevation of the patch allows for a slight increase in a perimeter of the patch to offset stretching of the patch prior to cutting; and
replacing the damaged section with [[the]] said cut patch.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the spacing apparatus has a top surface that is a dome shape.
11. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the spacing apparatus has edges forming a square shape.
12. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein a plurality of said spacing apparatus are stacked in between the patch and the damaged section.
13. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein said protrusion is a pointed tip.
14. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein said protrusion is a sharp protrusion.